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THURSDAY
MARCH 11, 1954

We had a meeting this morning with Messrs. Dillon, Joyce and Achilles at the Embassy to go over our telegram analyzing the differences between the Council of Europe, French and German positions on the Saar. This was [redacted] helpful.

Marquis Childs came to see me and spent an hour and a half discussing U. S. domestic and foreign policy. I am so glad that he and his wife will be spending a couple of months in Europe.

I took Mr. Donald C. Swatland, who has just arrived and is on his way to Luxembourg, out to lunch. He is one of the senior partners of the Cravath law firm in New York and is now representing the Coal and Steel Community in connection with its investment program. Swatland has known Monnet for many years, as well as his mother, whom he says is a most remarkable old lady. She is now in her eighties and still lives in Cognac where, during the war, her imperiousness prevented the Germans from any relationship whatever with her except to their disadvantage.

He says that a year or two in advance of World War II Monnet came to America convinced that hostilities were certain within twelve months or so. When they occurred, he was convinced the West would lose unless its aviation industry could be improved. He could get no support from the American aviation companies for the simple reason they had no orders. He then returned to France and convinced the French Government that it should build up a reserve in the United States by investing large sums of money there in airplane contracts. This was done and Swatland thinks, due to Monnet's imagination, it was probably the most decisive step taken in the munitions field during wartime. I have myself seen the paper, now in Monnet's possession, drawn by him and signed F.D.R., in which President Roosevelt set a production target of 50,000 planes a year.

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David Schoenbrun came to see me and talked about a lunch which he, Preston Grover, and some of their fellow correspondents had [redacted] with René Pleven today. Pleven said there could be no military conclusion of the war in Indo-China and that everything depended on the United States giving the French full backing in connection with the discussions on the Indo-China problem at the Geneva Conference. This will pose great difficulties for the American Government for, apart from any other considerations, I should think what the Chinese and Russians primarily would want from us would be (1) an almost complete freeing of East-West trade, and (2) our assent to the entry of the Peoples' Republic of China in the United Nations. Pleven apparently told them that if a truce were not negotiated at Geneva the present Government would fall apart and it would be succeeded by a Mendes-France type of Cabinet and eventually by a Popular Front which might later degenerate into complete Communist control.

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